

SYNNESTVEDT & LECHNER LLP

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The cutter assembly 50 and cutter gear module 70 are properly mated by placing the cutter assembly 50 and cutter gear module 70 in contact with corresponding support surfaces of at least one of the external shells 20, 30. Accordingly, for example, the support surfaces are configured to position and support the cutter assembly 50 and cutter gear module 70 in mechanically interengaging positions that provide for operability of the sharpening sub-assembly. After the external shells are mated, the blade holder 60 is supported by the first and second external shells 20, 30 to be rotatable around an axis of the cavity, as shown in Figure 2A. The blade holder 60 and cutter assembly 50 are operatively coupled to electric motor 94 by the speed-reducing gear train 90, as shown in Figure 2A. Accordingly, when the electric motor 94 is powered, the electric motor 94 causes the drive shaft 62 to rotate and thereby drives the blade holder 60 around the cavity, causing the pinion 56 to travel along the annular ring gear 74 and the rotary blade 54 to rotate and sharpen a pencil in the cavity, as discussed further below.--